REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 7, 2003, claims 1-11 are pending upon entry of the foregoing Amendment. By this Amendment, claims 1-10 are amended and claim 11 is added. No new matter is included. In view of the foregoing amendments and following comments, reconsideration and allowance of all the rejected claims are respectfully requested.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) filed on September 7, 1999 and September 20, 1999, Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the listed US patents and PCTs, as acknowledged by the signed and initialed forms PTO-1449. Applicant notes the Examiner's statement that the NPL references have not been considered at this point because a copy of these references, which were previously submitted with the IDSs, is not readily available to the Examiner. Applicant will obtain and again provide a copy of these NPL references in the near future for the Examiner's consideration.

Regarding the noted objections to the Abstract of the specification at page 52, Applicant has amended the Abstract to overcome these objections. Thus, these objections are believed to be overcome.

Regarding the objection to the title, Applicant is providing a new title that clearly describes the invention. Thus, the objection is believed to be overcome

Claim Objection

Claim 4 is objected to because the word "deemed" at line 6 should be replaced by the word "redeemed". Applicant has amended this claim accordingly and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because the feature "said remote database" does not have antecedent basis. Applicant has amended this feature to recite "said database", which finds antecedent basis in claim 1. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Barnett et al. (USP 6,321,208). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the following basis.

Independent claim 1 is amended to recite an in-store redemption system having a first generating means for printing a coupon, in response to a command input by the consumer, based upon the virtual coupon data corresponding to the consumer identification data of the consumer using the in-store redemption system, among other things. An exemplary embodiment provides for an in-store computer kiosk that receives a consumer's authorization number that is provided to each consumer who has used the SELLECTSOFT™ software on his or her own home computer (see page 32, line 26 to page 33, line 5, of the specification). The computer kiosk may receive data to check for virtual coupons accredited to his or her account and may also provide a selection of goods that may be purchased at the retail location of the computer kiosk(see page 33, lines 6-10, of the specification). In an additional embodiment, the computer kiosk may print the virtual coupons.

In contrast, Barnett et al. discloses a system having a plurality of remote user computers located at users homes for printing product redemption coupons, wherein the printed coupons are

used in a normal fashion by a consumer when shopping at a desired retail store (see Barnett et al., the Abstract). In an alternative embodiment, Barnett et al. discloses a system for enabling "the user to transmit electronically the printable coupon data from the coupon output buffer to the centrally located repository or directly to the retailer for electronic coupon redemption" (see Barnett et al., col. 4, lines 64-67). Furthermore, Barnett et al. discloses that "the electronic coupon data could also be routed via the data communication interface 20 to a retail store where the shopper will be shopping, where the coupon data is held in a buffer pending purchase by the user of the matching product" (see Barnett et al., col. 11, lines 39-43). However, Barnett et al. is deficient, because it does not teach or suggest an *in-store computer kiosk* that receives a consumer's authorization number that is provided to each consumer who has used the coupon software on his or her own home computer and that prints a coupon in response to a command input by the consumer, based upon the virtual coupon data corresponding to the consumer identification data of the consumer using the in-store redemption system. Thus, Applicant's claimed subject matter is structurally distinguished from Barnett et al.'s device.

Since Barnett et al. neither discloses nor suggests the invention claimed in independent claim1 and its dependent claims 2-6, 9 and 10, these claims clearly are not anticipated by Barnett et al.'s disclosure. For the foregoing reason, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Barnett et al. in view of Official Notice. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the following basis

Claims 7 and 8 depend indirectly from claim 1 and therefore include the features of an in-store redemption system having a first generating means for printing a coupon, in response to a command input by the consumer, based upon the virtual coupon data corresponding to the consumer identification data of the consumer using the in-store redemption system, among other things. Therefore, even if it is known to provide a computer diskette as a data entry method, Barnett et al. is deficient for the reasons provided above. Thus, reconsideration and allowance of claims 7 and 8 are respectfully requested.
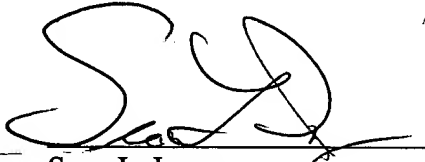
New claim 11 is added to further define features of the invention taught at least at page 45, lines 15-22. Claim 11 is distinguished over Barnett et al., which does not disclose at least a reviewing module that analyzes the database in real-time during checkout to determine whether the code identifying the selected product is eligible for virtual coupon discount redemption. Rather, Barnett et al. merely discloses that "the coupon redemption center receives from a number of stores 10 the coupon redeemed, verifies the value of the redeemed coupon, determines the identification of users who redeemed the coupons, and distributes the information read from the coupons 18 to the individual coupon issuers 14 and to the coupon distributor" (see Barnett et al., col. 7, lines 36-40).

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite

prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at

the number provided.

Dated: July 7, 2003   Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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